

RF 128.1202USN 10/10/05

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In the abstract:

On a separate page following the claims, please add the  
5 following abstract:

## -- Abstract

The method is for the pre-treatment of chips that are fed to a sulphate cooking process. Through the addition of an acidic fluid to the steam treatment step, a very high ionic concentration of hydrogen ions is achieved. When the chips  
10 are subsequently formed into a slurry with a preferably sulphide-rich alkali cooking fluid, H<sub>2</sub>S is formed locally in the chips, which gives a yield-increasing effect for the subsequent cooking step of 1-3%.--

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